

MINUTES
HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, February 07, 2023

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW40

MEMBERS: Chairman Crane(13), Vice Chairman Young, Representatives Palmer, Barbieri, Holtzclaw (Yorgason), Scott, Andrus, Skaug, Alfieri, Allgood, Crane(12), Gannon, Green

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: The sign-in sheet will be retained in the committee secretary's office; following the end of session the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Library.

Chairman Crane (13) called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

**UNANIMOUS
CONSENT
REQUEST:** **Chairman Crane (13)** made an unanimous consent request to change the order of business on the agenda. There being no objection, the request was granted.

RS 30185: **Rep. Scott** presented **RS 30185**, a proposed House Concurrent Resolution reaffirming the importance of the Electoral College and highlighting the dangers of the popular vote.

MOTION: **Rep. Alfieri** made a motion to introduce **RS 30185. Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 30210: **Rep. Scott** presented **RS 30210**. Rep. Scott stated **RS 30210** amends the duties of the Idaho State Controller to account for and store agreements entered into by state officers and agencies of the three branches of government. Rep. Scott shared this will include interstate compacts.

MOTION: **Rep. Gannon** made a motion to introduce **RS 30210. Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 30171: **Rep. Ehardt** presented **RS 30171**, legislation proposing to amend sections of Idaho Code related to human trafficking by adding definitions related to the illegal trafficking of minors to procure a criminal abortion.

MOTION: **Rep. Crane (12)** made a motion to introduce **RS 30171. Motion carried by voice vote.**

H 68: **Rep. Blanksma** presented **H 68**, legislation eliminating the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee (JLOC) and replacing it with the Legislative Council. JLOC is an appointed committee and the Legislative Council is elected by the members of each body. Rep. Blanksma stated the minority is disproportionately represented on JLOC, while the Legislative Council is far more reflective of our state. **H 68** streamlines the evaluation process by giving oversight of the Office of Performance Evaluation (OPE) to the Legislative Council. Currently, JLOC appoints the Director of OPE with 75 percent of the vote. **H 68** would require a simple majority of the vote to appoint the director because it is reflective of the standard practice in the legislature.

Sam Sandmire, Kayla Dodson, Crystal Ivie, Kendal Shaber, Diane Schwarz, Michael McGrane and Susan King all testified in opposition to **H 68** because the current system is working well and producing non-partisanship reports and data. They appreciate how JLOC is a bipartisan committee and is working well with OPE.

Christine Pisani, Executive Director of the Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities, testified **in opposition** to **H 68**. Ms. Pisani stated the structure and function of JLOC has performed an exemplary role of reviewing and selecting diverse study proposals dealing with difficult issues. Seniors and citizens with developmental disabilities have benefited by studies completed by OPE. The transparency the state is afforded by maintaining the current structure of JLOC overseeing and assigning projects to OPE provides the integrity the public relies on. In response to committee questions, Ms. Pisani stated she understands that the OPE will change under the Legislative Council by looking at financial and program aspects as well as agreements entered into by state agencies.

Rakesh Mohan, Director of the Office of Performance Evaluation, was invited to answer questions by **Rep. Gannon**. Mr. Mohan gave a general outline how JLOC selects the projects OPE is assigned and clarified the entire selection process is conducted in a public meeting.

Rep. Blanksma was recognized to close testimony on **H 68**. Rep. Blanksma clarified **H 68** is not about OPE and the process remains the same. She continued to clarify that according to state code, OPE is not allowed to perform studies. OPE will continue to be tasked to perform audits and performance evaluations of state agencies.

**ORIGINAL
MOTION:**

Rep. Palmer made a motion to send **H 68** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

**SUBSTITUTE
MOTION**

Rep. Gannon made a substitute motion to hold **H 68** in committee.

Rep. Gannon spoke to his substitute motion, stating changing to a simple majority will make it uncomfortable for the Director of OPE to come forward with difficult topics or results. The current system has been in place for 30 years and has worked well.

**VOTE ON
SUBSTITUTE
MOTION:**

Chairman Crane called for a vote on the substitute motion. **Substitute motion failed by voice vote.**

**VOTE ON
ORIGINAL
MOTION:**

Chairman Crane called for a vote on the original motion. **Original motion carried by voice vote. Reps. Gannon and Green** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**.

Rep. Blanksma will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:01 A.M.

Representative Crane (13)
Chair

Lisa Hendricks
Secretary